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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing, on behalf of the Arab coalition forces to restore legitimacy in Yemen, in regard to the murder of Hanna Lahoud, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff member, in a cowardly attack by a group of armed men in Ta'izz Governorate on 21 April 2018. I am also writing to inform you that the coalition immediately evacuated three ICRC staff members at their request, relayed in a letter from ICRC on the day of Mr. Lahoud's murder.

The coalition condemns in the strongest possible terms this attack on humanitarian staff in Yemen and sends its sincerest condolences to Mr. Lahoud's family and to the Government and brotherly people of Lebanon.

The coalition reiterates its commitment to ensuring humanitarian workers' safety as protected persons under international humanitarian law in order to enable them to fulfil their absolutely vital functions in service of the brotherly Yemeni people. The coalition also reiterates its appreciation and esteem for the efforts of all humanitarian workers in Yemen.

Furthermore, and with reference to the letter dated 17 April 2018 addressed to you (S/2018/367), the coalition calls for a full investigation into the above-mentioned incident, to identify and hold accountable the cowardly gunmen responsible for Mr. Lahoud's death. The coalition also calls for a full review of the measures necessary to bolster the safety and security of United Nations and humanitarian staff in Yemen, in the face of their harassment and intimidation by the lawless Houthi militias and by armed non-State groups, as called for in the letter from the United Nations Staff Union in Yemen, referenced in the aforementioned letter. The coalition demands that the Houthi militias cooperate with ICRC and the United Nations in their relevant investigations and hand those responsible over to justice.

Finally, my delegation requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

18-06868 (E) 030518

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